



TOWN OF SURF CITY

MARCH 15, 2019 WORK SESSION MINUTES

Agenda

9:00 AM / Friday, March 15, 2019

Surf City Welcome Center, 102 N. Shore Drive

Council Present:

Douglas C. Medlin, Mayor

William J. (Buddy) Fowler, Mayor Pro-Tem

Nelva Albury

Donald R. Helms

Teresa Batts

Jeremy Shugarts

Call to Order

Mayor Douglas C. Medlin, Mayor

Invocation & Pledge

Introductions & Welcome

Work Plan

1. Emergency Management Ordinance Update Section 6
2. Speed Reduction Hwy 50
3. FY 2019-2020 Budget Kickoff

Town Council Work Plan Items:

1. Item 1: Emergency Management Ordinance Update Sec. 6

Mr. Horne discussed an ordinance update to section 6 Emergency Management. He researched many other municipalities and seven other jurisdictions that use this same ordinance. Some changes have been made regarding the ruling board and governmental structure.

Mrs. Loftis discussed after action hurricane meetings with Pender County that they attended. They learned of new avenues to communicate with AM radio stations.

Mayor stated this has been a coastal issue. The Coastal Resource Commission has also addressed this issue, it greatly impacted the whole coast of NC.

The Council came to a consensus to give the Emergency Management Director authority to work with department heads on updating department emergency management plans and the

final draft would be brought to Council for approval. They also came to a consensus to move forward with adding the ordinance draft to the April 2nd agenda.

2. Speed Reduction Hwy 50

Chief Shanahan gave statistics and asked for feedback regarding speed reduction along Hwy 50 from CVS to the new bridge. He stated he has spoken with NCDOT Chad Kimes, District engineer for division 3. Currently coming into town at McDonalds there is a 35mph sign and going out of town at Linda's Family Affair there is a 45mph sign, after some calls to DOT they stated the current speed limit is 45 mph. Chad Kimes stated the council could request a traffic study, but he was unsure to if they would change it or not. In 2016 46 accidents were on the Hwy 50 corridor, in 2017 54 accidents & 2018 48 accidents with one being a fatality. He stated there are a lot of collisions in the one-mile strip. With all the new growth that is ahead, he asked for council opinion.

Mr. Helms stated at this point he really did not want to change the speed. When the stoplight goes in at JH Batts Road it is going to change the dynamic of the whole strip, by slowing traffic. He suggested waiting till the new development goes in and the intersection is re-designed, because there will three stoplights in a one-mile section of Hwy 50.

Mr. Shugarts stated if the Chief see the need to lower the speed limit than we support the Chief. The reduction in speed could be a preventative measure.

Mrs. Batts asked for a study with DOT to see what the statistics would be. She stated it is very dangerous at JH Batts Road.

Mrs. Fowler asked for a DOT study and that JH Batts is a dangerous intersection.

Mayor stated the stoplights need to be synced so the flow of traffic would be smoother. The new light may not slow traffic down as much as you are thinking because the lights will be synced.

The Council came to a consensus to error on the side of safety and requests the NCDOT to do a traffic study and come back to council with those results.

3. FY 2019-2020 Budget Kickoff

Mrs. Loftis stated the current fund balance is not high enough to support all recovery efforts. She suggested reaching out for a short service loan till FEMA can re-pay. The FEMA debris is over 2 million, street paving is 1.2 million and this does not include any town hall construction. Therefore, a fund balance is very important and why the LGC wants to see the fund balance at 100%, so that the town can float these items until FEMA re-pays. The goal is to increase the fund balance, it really isn't an option. There are two debt services that will be paid in full in 2020 but there are other needs that need to be addressed. The LGC does keep a very close eye on our debt ratio. The main items we need to focus on are these big-ticket items and coming up with a capital improvement plan. A capital improvement plan full day of planning needs to be setup and this is not anything the town has done before. With a capital reserve fund those funds could be funded out of a specific fund instead of purchased with a loan. This "savings" needs to be done with all capital big-ticket items such as vehicles or fire trucks. She stated she would get with department heads and there will be a specific day with council to go over the capital projects. She asked for council's priorities and or

ideas. She discussed that preliminary results are back from Juniper Swamp and there maybe a potential 690,000 gallons a day that could be sprayed. Mr. Schultz will now go out to the property and confirm his paper findings. This is the second phase of the project, and he is continuing to move forward. This next phase should take about 2-3 weeks. She asked council to think about the property across from town hall on N. New River Drive, the town owns multiple parcels, she explained the need to put those properties up for sale. The funds from these properties could help pay for the new town hall. We have applied to the Golden Leaf grant, and FEMA. If we do not receive the Golden Leaf grant than there will have to be back up dollars to go with what FEMA will pay. She mentioned moving the police department off the island and selling that piece as well. That the sale might would be better to sell all of it together.

The Council came to a consensus to move forward with allowing the manger to negotiate the sale of the three parcels across the street from town hall.

4. Closed Session

Mr. Helms made a motion to go into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)6 regarding personnel. Mrs. Albury seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mrs. Albury made a motion to go back into open session. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and it was carried.

The council came to the consensus to move forward with merging the welcome center with the parks & recreation department.